

Ami Reassurable

Ami

OUR REASONABLE SERVICE.

Romans 12:1 I beseech you, therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service."

Intro.

A. First 11 chapters devoted to showing forth the doctrinal side of Xty, the goodness and mercy of God as shown in His plan of salvation thru Jesus Christ.

But Paul realizes that more than an understanding of the Gospel is necessary: there must be a living of the Gospel, a living Gospel within ourselves, for Xty is more than a belief or a creed, it is a life, yea, it is Life.

B. "to present your bodies a living sacrifice".

Not the bodies of dead animals on the altar, but the bodies of your living selves unto God; in short, in short, God wants you- all that you are and all that you can do for Him.

Paul says that the entire consecration of ourselves is ~~our~~ reasonable service unto God. This is a far-reaching assertion and we have a right to demand upon what grounds the apostle can make it.

A sacrifice, in order to be reasonable, must meet a necessity and accomplish some good purpose.

Example. I am rowing in a boat on a river. A friend rushes to the bank and exclaims, "I love you so much I am going to give you my life." at the same time throwing himself into the water and drowning himself. Should I regard his act as a sacrifice, or as the result of mental derangement?

On the other hand, suppose the boat had capsized and I could not swim, etc. The act of my friend would be a sacrifice indeed!

Was the sacrifice of Christ reasonable? Did it meet a crisis in the world and did it accomplish a worthy purpose?

Indirectly from history- the world greatly benefited by Xty. *the Son of the living God*

Directly, every Xn given a new conception of life, born anew, given inspiration and power from above.

Then, in response to the sacrifice of Christ, to all that X means to the world and to ~~me~~ personally, what reasonable service ought I to render to God?

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I. We will be forever grateful and keep in constant touch with God.

1. ~~The/loved/one/~~If a friend saved my life at the risk of his own, I would see him as often as I could I would keep in touch with him. Altho God is not an earthly creature, we can keep in touch with Him. Altho Christ died, He is alive and here with us, and we can keep in touch with Him.
 - a. The lady who never liked to be alone. Jesus spent a great deal of his time away from everyone- all by himself, alone, that He might be in touch with His Heavenly Father.
 - b. The boy who likes to travel but who never stays away long, for he must see his mother every little while.
 - c. The personal touch in business, in the home, in the school and church.

II. We will keep our love true and ourselves pure.

1. The Rhone River, like the Jordan flowing thru Lake Galilee, flows thru Lake Geneva, a stream of pure crystal water from the snow-clad Alps. Shortly after it leaves the lake a tributary joins it, the Arve, which flowing thru a clay country, is a mucky stream. For a long distance the two streams can be distinguished for they flow side by side; but they soon mix and the pure Rhone takes on the muddy color of the Arve.
2. In life there are two streams of influence upon character:
 - The one from God which is pure
 - The other from the world which is muddy, sinful.
 The Rhone, being water, has to mix with the Arve, but we, being persons with free wills, can choose to keep pure and true. When we keep in touch with God, God gives us the power to keep pure.

III. We will fight for God and righteousness in the world.

"We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principapities and powers, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

The story of the forty wrestlers.

In a cold a severe country the decree went forth that all who refused to drink a libation to the heathen gods would be put to death.

3.

Many Xns drank to save their lives, but thre were fottj of them, known as "The Wrestlers", a band of earnest praying Xns who determined to die rather than to prove disloyal to Christ.

When they refused to drink, they were puript of all clothing and put upon a frozen lake to die, with a centurian stationed on the bank to guard them. A cup of wine also placed, giving the men opportunity to renounce their faith if they so chose.

During the night one after another froze to death, until only one remained. Towards morning the centurian noticed him crawling to the bank toward the cup of wine. He took the glassbut before he could drink he fell over dead.

The centurian reflecting upon the bravery of the 39, and with their song going thru his mind constantly, suddenly tore his clothes from his body and went out on the lake to join the 39 in order to keep their pledge according to their song,

"Forty wrestlers wrestLing for Christ;
For Thee, O Christ, we win the victory,
And from Thee we claim the crown."

And it seems to me that in one sense the fight to-day is harder than it was in the days of persecution. To-day Indifference is a stronger foe agsinst righteousness than opoostion use to be.

III IV. We will help the fallen ones and encourage the weaker ones.

Read, "Living, Loving, Lifting."